scrips of BPL, Sterlite and Videocon during April-May 1998 and the likelihood of sudden payment crisis at the two major exchanges, BSE and NSE, in June 1998. Investigation *prima facie* concluded that a set of stock brokers and sub-brokers acting in concert on behalf of common clients, cornered a large chunk of shares at BSE and NSE. These set of clients were acting as a front for Harshad Mehta. As a result of findings of investigations, enquiry proceedings were initiated under SEBI Regulations against 34 stock brokers and orders were passed against 18 brokers, prohibiting them from undertaking fresh activity as brokers till completion of the enquiry proceedings. Show cause notices were issued to the President, Vice President and the Executive Director of BSE for their failure to discharge their responsibilities and for their conduct which was detrimental to the integrity of the system. Show cause notice was also issued to NSE for slackness in monitoring and not taking effective surveillance action. Consequent to findings of investigations and show cause notices, SEBI has passed orders against the President, BSE asking him to relinquish the office of the President. SEBI had also directed that the President and the Executive Director of BSE shall not be eligible to hold any public position in future as member of the governing board as well as in capital market related public institutions for a period of 3 years. Proceedings against the Vice President of BSE and the NSE are underway. Investigations had also indicated that the companies BPL. Sterlite and Videocon had connived with Harshad Mehta in the price manipulation, following which show cause notices have been issued to Harshad Mehta and Directors of these companies. The investigations also brought out certain systemic deficiencies for which SEBI has taken appropriate steps.

RBI Panel on Asset Securitlsation

527. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India Panel on Asset Securitlsation has suggested to enact securitlsation legislation;

(b) if so, details of suggestions made; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) According to information received from Reserve Bank of India, the Bank's in-housc Working Group on Asset Securitisation has recommended, *inter-alia,* that as a long term measure, the Government may consider bringing out an "umbrella legislation" covering all aspects of securitisation. For the medium and the short term, the Group has recommended amendments of provisions in different statutes *e.g.*. Companies Act, 1956, Indian Stamp Act, 1899, State Stamp Acts, Transfer of Property Act, 1882, Income Tax Act, 1961 etc. The Report of the Working Group is under examination of the Government.

Review of uniform sales tax policy

528. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the introduction of uniform sales tax Government have made any review of its implementation to assess the general rise in the price index and its budgetary impact on the common man;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any change in the sales tax policy is contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.